

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00818 211039Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /047 W
-----007464 220425Z /11

R 210724Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0818

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB ECON PEPR MP UR XA
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW -- JULY 21, 1978-- SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 0793 (DTG 141222Z JUL 78)
PORT LOUIS A-60 JULY 21

1. THE RESULT OF THE JULY 16 BY-ELECTION FOR TWO SEATS
ON THE VACOAS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WAS ABOUT AS EXPECTED.
THE OPPOSITION PARTY, THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT
(MMM), RETAINED ITS TWO SEATS, BUT BY A SIGNIFICANTLY
SMALLER MARGIN THAN IT HAD REGISTERED IN THIS MMM
STRONGHOLD IN THE APRIL 1977 ELECTION. THE MMM VOTE FELL
BY SEVEN PERCENTAGE POINTS, TO 55 PERCENT, WHILE THE
GOVERNING ALLIANCE OF THE LABOR PARTY AND MAURITIAN
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY INCREASED ITS VOTE BY EIGHT
PERCENT TO 45. THE LATTER THEREFORE CLAIMED A "MORAL"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00818 211039Z

VICTORY, AND IT IS TRUE THAT THE OUTCOME WAS FAVORABLE
TO THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS IT
SHOWED A SERIOUS EROSION OF SUPPORT IN THE ELECTORATE
FOR THE MMM. THE OPPOSITION PARTY'S SLIPPAGE OF
SEVEN PERCENT, IF REPEATED NATIONWIDE IN NEW GENERAL
ELECTIONS, WOULD CAUSE IT TO LOSE THE BULK OF ITS
PARLIAMENTARY SEATS.

2. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BY-ELECTION THE NUMBER THREE MAN IN THE GOVERNMENT, AGRICULTURE MINISTER BOOLELL, FLOATED THE IDEA TF A COALITION OF GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTUES, BUT THE MMM PARTY NEWSPAPER RESPONDED THAT "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE" OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. ON THE EVE OF THE VACOAS ELECTION PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM GAVE HIS SECOND PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR, JUST BEFORE GOING TO KHARTOUM TO ATTEND THE OAU SUMMIT. RAMGOOLAM MADE RATHER VIOLENT ATTACKS ON THE MMM, THE SOVIET UNION, AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ADOPTED THE IDEOLOGY OF MARXISM-LENINISM. THESE WERE NO DOUBT DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE THE ELECTION IN VACOAS. THE PRIME MINISTER ACCUSED THE USSR OF WANTING TO INSTALL DICTATORIAL REGIMES EVERYWHERE AND OF USING ITS MILITARY AID TOWARD THIS END. RAMGOOLAM PROMISED VILLAGE ELECTIONS FOR LATER THIS YEAR, BUT SAID HE IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TRANSOFRMING MAURITIUS INTO A REPUBLIC BECAUSE THERE OCCUR TOO MANY COUPS D'ETAT IN REPUBLICS.

3. THE THREE-SIDED WAGE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE GOVERNMENT, THE EMPLOYERS AND THE TRADE UNION FRONT REACHED AN IMPASSE AFTER A SERIES OF MEETINGS THIS WEEK. THE UNIONS ARE MAINTAINING THEIR DEMAND FOR AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD TEN PERCENT WAGE INCREASE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT L 00818 211039Z

RESTORE THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE WORKERS AND ARE THREATENING TO CALL A GENERAL STRIKE ON JULY 24 TO ENFORCE THEIR DEMANDS. THE GOVERNMENT BROUGHT LABOR WORKERS' DEMANDS AFTER THEY SLOWED SUGAR EXPORTS WITH A SLOWDOWN, BUT THE STEVEDORES AND DRIVERS ARE NOW DOING THE SAME THING AND SHIPS ARE LINING UP OUTSIDE THE HARBOR.
KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTL00818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-0539
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780731/aaaabadx.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7aa8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT LOUIS 793
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1919975
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW -- JULY 21, 1978-- SUMMARY
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ECON, PEPR, MP, UR, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7aa8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014